Energy management policy of Railways

1316. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after scripting a turnaround, his Ministry is now looking to achieve a similar breakthrough in its energy management policy to bring about energy efficiency in the system using a four-pronged approach which would include electrification of more routes, improving technology as well as setting up a captive power plants;

(b) if so,whether the Railways spend about 6,400 crores annually on its energy requirements of which about Rs. 5,500 crores is spent on electricity alone;

(c) what are the proposals Government are considering; and

(d) by when final decision would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Expenditure on electrical energy for the year 2005-06 for traction purposes was Rs. 4391 crores and for non-traction purposes was Rs. 978 crores. The expenditure on diesel fuel was Rs. 5943 crores.

(c) and (d) As regards setting up of power plant, it has been decided to establish a 1000 Mega Watt (MW) captive power plant at Nabinagar (Bihar) in joint venture with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited and Railways. The electrification of Barabanki-Gorakhpur-Barauni, Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi and Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai routes have also been proposed in Budget for the year 2007-08 tabled in Parliament. Improvement in technology is a continuous process and decisions are taken on techno-economic considerations.

Secruity arrangements on Railways

1317. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether extremists targeting trains plying across Naxalite-infested districts, the Centre decided to put in place a counter strategy that would

include raising more battalions of the Railway Protection Force to man moving trains after Maoists detained a passenger train in Latehar, Jharkhand, for several hours in March, 2006;

(b) whether the plan involves the deployment of armed personnel of RPF and Government Railway Police on moving trains plying across Naxalite-infested areas;

(c) whether Railways have initiated process or raising more RPF battalions and training course of RPF personnel; and

(d) to what extent it has been helpful in checking the attacks on Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have decided to put in place a counter strategy that would include raising additional manpower of the Railway Protection Force in the wake of the incident of detention of train on 13.03.2006 in Latehar district in Jharkhand and other naxal attacks on Railway property in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal etc. and increased threat perception on account of activities of extremist groups in Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and naxal affected States. The idea is not to substitute Government Railway Police or the State police with Railway Protection Force but to deploy armed Railway Protection Force personnel, adequately trained and equipped, on escort duty in trains particularly on the sections identified as vulnerable in naxal affected areas, so as to act as a deterrent.

(d) Naxalites activities is an ongoing problem. However, it is expected that training and modernization of Railway Protection Force personnel will yield fruitful results in near future for Railway security.

Freight corridor project in Tamil Nadu

1318. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of freight corridor formed in each State with the dates of commencement of such projects in each State;

(b) the perspective Plan of this project, State-wise; and

(c) the position of Tamil Nadu in this context?